

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
POETRY FOUNDATION
present



2011

National Finals

April 28–29

The Lincoln Theatre
WASHINGTON, DC



The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.



The Poetry Foundation is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. The Foundation publishes *Poetry* magazine, sponsors a variety of public programs, and supports creative projects in literature.

MID ATLANTIC
ARTS FOUNDATION



Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation supports the richness and diversity of the region's arts resources and promotes wider access to the art and artists of the region, nation, and world.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the State and Jurisdictional Arts Agencies of the United States.



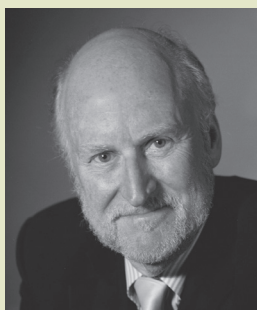


Photo by Michael Eastman



Photo courtesy of the Poetry Foundation

Welcome to our nation's capital and the final competition of the 2011 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest.

Of the approximately 365,000 students who participated in Poetry Out Loud this year, fifty-three have reached the National Finals—one from every state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Great talent and hard work brought them here, and we congratulate each state champion on their success. Of course, they couldn't have done it alone, so we also offer an enthusiastic round of applause for the family, friends, teachers, and state arts agency staff and partners who have inspired and supported them along the way. You are all living, brilliant proof that poetry flourishes when it has an audience.

Tonight, prepare to be inspired by poetry. Every audience member, whether watching the webcast from home, following us on Twitter at hashtag #POLnews, or here with us at Lincoln Theatre, has the distinct privilege of witnessing a poem transformed, taken off the page and spoken aloud. You'll see that interpretation and delivery of a poem is limitless as a creative endeavor. Each student has explored the nuances of poem and poet and brought their own experiences to the interpretation. It is their important task today to give the poem back to the world, to make it new. You will likely hear a few poems recited more than once—consider what each unique perspective reveals.

We invite you to join with us this evening in celebrating the universal appeal of verse. Poetry has not only survived but thrived in our popular culture—it has been inspiration for Broadway plays, sneaker advertisements, and many things in between. The value of poetry lies in its magical simplicity, its pure allegiance to imagination and invention, and its ability to distill human emotion into a few pure lines of text. To quote Emily Dickinson, "I know nothing in the world that has as much power as a word. Sometimes I write one, and I look at it, until it begins to shine."

Good luck to all our contestants – may your words shine wherever your journey takes you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rocco Landesman".

Rocco Landesman
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Barr".

John Barr
President
Poetry Foundation

April 28

Semifinals Program

Semifinal One

9:00 am

Semifinal Two

1:00 pm

Semifinal Three

5:00 pm



Welcome and Introductions

Leslie Liberato

Stephen Young

Hosts

Stephen F. Schmidt

Josephine Reed

First Round

Second Round

Intermission

Announcement of Regional Finalists

*Top eight competitors in each semifinal
will recite a third poem*

Third Round

Awards Presentation

Announcement of National Finalists

*Top three competitors in each semifinal
will advance to National Finals*

April 29

National Finals Program

Welcome

Kerry Washington, Member
President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

Roll Call of State Champions

Opening Remarks

Patrice Walker Powell, Deputy Chairman
for Programs and Partnerships
National Endowment for the Arts

First Round

Remarks

John Barr, President
Poetry Foundation

Second Round

Announcement of Three Finalists

Final Round

Performance

Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra with Christylez Bacon

Announcement of Poetry Out Loud National Champion

NATIONAL FINALS

Host

Kerry Washington is an award-winning film and stage actress. At the 2005 NAACP Image Awards, she received the Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture award for her role in *Ray*, and in 2002, she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Actress in the film *Lift*. Washington garnered critical acclaim for her roles in *The Last King of Scotland* opposite Forest Whitaker, *The Dead Girl* opposite Marcia Gay Harden and Brittany Murphy, and *Lakeview Terrace* with Samuel L. Jackson and Patrick Wilson. Most recently, Washington starred in Tyler Perry's *For Colored Girls* with an all-star cast including Phylicia Rashad and Whoopi Goldberg. In 2010, she made her Broadway debut in David Mamet's provocative hit, *Race*. Washington was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2009, and she received the US Conference of Mayors Artist-Citizen Award for public leadership in the arts.

Judges

Thomas Sayers Ellis co-founded the Dark Room Collective and received his MFA from Brown University. He is the author of *The Maverick Room*, which won the John C. Zacharis First Book Award, and a recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award. His poems and photographs have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Callaloo*, *Best American Poetry*, *Grand Street*, *The Baffler*, *jubilat*, *Tin House*, *Poetry*, and *The Nation*. His new collection of poetry, *Skin, Inc.*, was published in 2010. Ellis is also an Assistant Professor of Writing at Sarah Lawrence College, a faculty member in the Lesley University low-residency MFA program, and a Cave Canem faculty member. He is currently working on *The Go-Go Book: People in the Pocket in Washington, D.C.*

Michael Kahn is the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC). From 1992–2006, he was the Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division of the Juilliard School. Kahn has also served as Artistic Director for the American Shakespeare Theatre, Producing Director for the McCarter Theatre, and he is the founder of the Chautauqua Conservatory Theater. During his tenure at the STC, Kahn has directed its move from the Folger Shakespeare Library to the Lansburgh Theatre and managed the creation of the Shakespeare Theatre Company Free For All as well as the development of the Company's Academy for Classical Acting. Most recently, he has overseen the Company's construction of Sidney Harman Hall, part of the new Harman Center for the Arts. For his work, Kahn has received a Tony Award nomination, a Joseph Jefferson Award nomination, two New Jersey Critic's Awards, the Daily News Critic's Citation, and multiple Helen Hayes Award nominations and wins.

Aditi Kapil is an actress, writer, and director of Bulgarian and Indian descent, raised in Sweden, and now residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her play, *Love Person*, was produced to critical acclaim in Minneapolis, Seattle, Indianapolis, Boise, and Chicago, and received the 2009 Stavis Playwriting Award. Her most recent play, *Agnes Under*

the Big Top, a tall tale, a NEA Distinguished New Play Development Project selection, premiered at Mixed Blood Theatre in February 2011 and Long Wharf Theatre in March 2011. Kapil is a Resident Artist at Mixed Blood Theatre, and a Core Writer at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

Valerie Martínez is a poet, teacher, playwright, and collaborative artist. She has published several volumes of poetry. Martínez's 2010 book-length poem, *Each and Her*, was nominated for a National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. Her poems, essays, and translations have appeared widely in journals and anthologies including *The American Poetry Review*, *Parnassus*, *The Washington Post*, *The Best American Poetry*, and *Touching the Fire: Fifteen Poets of Today's Latino Renaissance*. Martínez is Executive Director and core artist with Littlelobe, an artist-run non-profit that collaborates with communities in creating public works of art, installation, and performance. Martínez was Poet Laureate of Santa Fe, New Mexico from 2008–2010.

Amber Tamblyn is an actress and an author. She is an Emmy and Golden Globe nominee for her work on the television show, *Joan of Arcadia*, as well as an Independent Spirit Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress for her work opposite Tilda Swinton in *Stephanie Daley*. Tamblyn recently starred in FOX's *House*, playing a quirky med student, and in Danny Boyle's film, *127 Hours*, with James Franco. She will be seen next in John Doyle's film, *Main Street*, in which she stars with Orlando Bloom and Colin Firth. Her second book of poetry and prose, *Bang Ditto*, is currently in stores. Tamblyn is the Executive Producer of The Drums Inside Your Chest, an annual poetry and literary concert in Los Angeles, and is the co-founder of the non-profit organization, Write Now Poetry Society.

Brian Turner's debut book of poems, *Here, Bullet*, won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, *The New York Times* Editor's Choice selection, the 2006 Pen Center USA Best in the West Award, and the 2007 Poets' Prize, among others. Turner served seven years in the US Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He was featured in *Operation Homecoming*, a unique documentary that explores the firsthand accounts of American service men and women through their own words. Turner's poetry has been published in *Poetry Daily*, *The Georgia Review*, and in the *Voices in Wartime Anthology*. His second poetry book, *Phantom Noise*, was released in the spring of 2010 and was shortlisted for the 2010 T.S. Eliot Prize in Poetry. Turner holds an MFA from the University of Oregon.

SEMIFINALS

Hosts

Josephine Reed is the Media Producer for the Public Affairs department at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Before coming to the NEA, she directed XM Satellite Radio's book and contemporary theater channel and hosted the program,

Hosts and Judges

Writers on Writing. In partnership with the NEA, she also created the series, *The Big Read on XM*. Motivated by her passion for books, she has interviewed all types of writers throughout her career, including novelists, historians, playwrights, and poets.

Stephen F. Schmidt has been a professional actor for over thirty years and has lived and worked in New York, Los Angeles, and for the past 23 years in the DC-Baltimore area. He is also a teaching artist through Ford's Theatre and has helped conduct a course called "Oratory in American Culture" at Central High School in Prince George's County for the last three school years. He will be performing in *One Destiny*, a two-man show about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre this spring.

Judges

Naomi Ayala is the author of two books of poetry, *Wild Animals on the Moon* and *This Side of Early*. Her third book of poems will be published this year. In May, her translation of Argentinean poet Luis Alberto Ambroggio's most recent book of poems, *The Wind's Archeology/La arqueología del viento*, will be published in Mexico. A native of Puerto Rico, Ayala lives in Washington, DC, where, until recently, she served as the founding executive director of 826DC, a non-profit dedicated to helping students with creative and expository writing skills. She is a member of the Board of the Directors of DC Advocates for the Arts.

Ibtisam Barakat is a Palestinian American poet and author. Her memoir, *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*, has won numerous awards and honors, including the International Reading Association's Best Non-Fiction Book for Young Adults. The book was also named an American Library Association Notable Book, an IRA Notable Book for a Global Society, an USBBY Outstanding International Book, and has been translated into several languages. Her new book in Arabic, *Al-Ta' Al-Marbouta Tateer*, an illustrated poem-story, won the 2011 Reading Here, There and Everywhere Award from the Anna Lindh Foundation. Barakat has taught Language Ethics at Stephens College, and she is the founder of Write Your Life seminars, empowering people from various groups to contribute to writing history by sharing their voices, perspectives, and personal stories.

Teri Ellen Cross Davis holds a BS in Journalism from Ohio University and an MFA in Poetry from American University. She was a Ford Foundation fellow, a Cave Canem fellow, and attended the Soul Mountain Writer's Retreat. Her poems have been published in many anthologies including *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, *The Why and Later*, and *Full Moon on K Street*. Her work has appeared online in *Beltway Quarterly* and *Torch*, and in *Natural Bridge*, *Gargoyle*, and the *Poetic Voices Without Borders 2* anthology. Cross Davis has read on WPFW's "Poet's Corner" in Washington, DC, and collaborated with artist Ruth Stone for the Takoma Park, Maryland exhibit, *This Is Our Body*. She is the Poetry and Lectures Coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Patricia Gray recently retired from her position as head of the Poetry and Literature Center at the Library of Congress, where she was the founder and coordinator of the Library's Poetry at Noon series. Gray's poems have appeared widely in journals and anthologies, and her collection, *Rupture*, was chosen by the *Montserrat Review* as one of the best books of poetry published in 2005. Gray was awarded several artist fellowships for poetry from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, most recently in 2006. In 1983, she received her MFA in poetry at the University of Virginia and was also awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize that year.

Joseph O. Legaspi is the author of *Imago*, winner of a Global Filipino Literary Award. A graduate of New York University's Creative Writing Program, his poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Life in Poetry*, *From the Fishhouse*, *jubilat*, *World Literature Today*, *PEN International*, *Smartish Pace*, *The Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, *The Normal School*, and the anthologies *Language for a New Century* and *Tilting the Continent*. A recipient of a poetry fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Legaspi co-founded Kundiman, a non-profit organization serving Asian American poetry.

Keith Leonard is the Literature Department Chair at American University in Washington, DC. Author of *Fettered Genius: The African American Bardic Poet from Slavery to Civil Rights*, Leonard received his master's in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his PhD at Stanford University. His publications, presentations, and courses have revolved around his study of political consciousness in African American poetry and poetics, and in hip-hop culture. Leonard is currently working on a book project tentatively titled, *Black Love: Politics and Passion in Contemporary African American Literature*.

Gary Logan is the director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. He is the author of *The Eloquent Shakespeare: A Pronouncing Dictionary for the Complete Dramatic Works with Notes to Untie the Modern Tongue* and a recipient of a 2006 Tyrone Guthrie Award. As a voice, text, and dialect coach, theatres include the RSC, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre, Arena Stage, Studio Theatre, Folger Theatre, Chautauqua Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada.

Orlando Ricardo Menes was born in Lima, Peru to Cuban parents but has lived most of his life in the United States. Since 2000 he has taught in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Notre Dame, where he is currently Associate Professor in English. His third poetry collection, *Furia*, was published in 2005. Menes is also the author of *Rumba atop the Stones*, published in 2001, and editor of *Renaming Ecstasy: Latino Writings on the Sacred*. In addition to his own poems, Menes has published numerous translations of poetry in Spanish, including *My Heart Flooded with Water: Selected Poems by Alfonsina Storni*. In 2009 he received a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

2011 State C

ALABAMA

Youssef Biaz

Auburn High School

ALASKA

Lakeidra D. Chavis

Austin E. Lathrop High School

ARIZONA

Steffi McNerney

St. Gregory College Preparatory School

ARKANSAS

Kelsey Cain-Myers

Bentonville High School

CALIFORNIA

Robert Marchand

Pacific Grove High School

COLORADO

Samuel Opoku

Thornton High School

CONNECTICUT

Erin Rose Connolly

Rockville High School

DELAWARE

Hannah Grace Glavin

Wilmington Christian School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Grey St. Claire Butler

Calvin Coolidge Senior High School

FLORIDA

Shatyra G. Hall

William T. McFatter Technical High School

GEORGIA

Griffin Freeman

Chattahoochee High School

HAWAII

Lea DiMarchi

Punahou School

IDAHO

Haley M. Henderson

Moscow Senior High School

ILLINOIS

Morgan Joyce Williams

Springfield High School

INDIANA

Zachary Rooker

Warsaw Community High School

IOWA

Grace Rants

East High School

KANSAS

Casha Gloria Mills

Shawnee Mission North High School

KENTUCKY

Victoria DiMartile

Beechwood High School

LOUISIANA

David Wayne Douglas

Washington-Marion Magnet High School

MAINE

Lulama Hawkes

Catherine McAuley High School

MARYLAND

Kari Barclay

Richard Montgomery High School

MASSACHUSETTS

Michaela DeAndrea Murray

John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science

MICHIGAN

Harron Alexander Atkins

Lewis Cass Technical High School

MINNESOTA

Ian Taylor

Woodbury High School

MISSISSIPPI

Kristen Dupard

Ridgeland High School

MISSOURI

Terry Lee Watkins, Jr.

Crossroads College Preparatory School

Champions

MONTANA

Stella Shannon

Hellgate High School

NEBRASKA

Jakob Kramer

Parkview Christian High School

NEVADA

Emily Orellana

Rainshadow Community Charter High School

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Olivia Vordenberg

Souhegan High School

NEW JERSEY

Clarissa Amanda Lotson

West Orange High School

NEW MEXICO

Nicole Bartlett

Oñate High School

NEW YORK

Steven Tsai

Wellington C. Mepham High School

NORTH CAROLINA

Marty McCarthy

Eugene Ashley High School

NORTH DAKOTA

Karson Pederson

Watford City High School

OHIO

Caira Lee

Shaker Heights High School

OKLAHOMA

Renae Perry

Stillwater Area High School

OREGON

Nathaniel Michael Dunaway

Crook County High School

PENNSYLVANIA

DeVonna Daisy Smith

Reading High School

PUERTO RICO

Rafael José Rivera Quiñones

University Gardens High School

RHODE ISLAND

Daraja Aranda Hinds

*Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing
& Visual Arts*

SOUTH CAROLINA

LeeAnn Swager

Ridge View High School

SOUTH DAKOTA

Melissa Johnston

Brandon Valley High School

TENNESSEE

Summer Ghasan Awad

Hardin Valley Academy

TEXAS

Maria Zuniga

Coppell High School

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Shantelle R. Eddy

Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

UTAH

Shannon McCullam

Box Elder High School

VERMONT

Claude Mumbere

Burlington High School

VIRGINIA

Carol V. Decker

Tuscarora High School

WASHINGTON

Micah D. Meadowcroft

Cedar Tree Classical Christian School

WEST VIRGINIA

Anthony Braxton

South Charleston High School

WISCONSIN

Chantal Tribble

Milwaukee High School of the Arts

WYOMING

Sara Margaret Ellingrod

Arvada-Clearmont High School

CONNECTICUT**Erin Rose Connolly**

- “Dog” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- “Domestic Violence” by Eavan Boland

DELAWARE**Hannah Grace Glavin**

- “I think I should have loved you presently” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**Grey St. Claire Butler**

- “Booker T. and W.E.B.” by Dudley Randall
- “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe

MAINE**Lulama Hawkes**

- “Gitanjali 35” by Rabindranath Tagore
- “Black Boys Play the Classics” by Toi Derricotte

MARYLAND**Kari Barclay**

- “Dog” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- “Holy Sonnets: Death, be not proud” by John Donne

MASSACHUSETTS**Michaela DeAndrea Murray**

- “My Last Duchess” by Robert Browning
- “What Work Is” by Philip Levine

NEW HAMPSHIRE**Olivia Vordenberg**

- “The Man with the Hoe” by Edwin Markham
- “Life in a Love” by Robert Browning

NEW JERSEY**Clarissa Amanda Lotson**

- “Echo” by Daryl Hine
- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

NEW YORK**Steven Tsai**

- “La Figlia che Piange” by T.S. Eliot
- “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” by John Donne

NORTH CAROLINA

Marty McCarthy

- “Cartoon Physics, part 1” by Nick Flynn
- “Snow Day” by Billy Collins

OHIO

Caira Lee

- “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by William Wordsworth
- “And Soul” by Eavan Boland

PENNSYLVANIA

DeVonna Daisy Smith

- “A Song for Soweto” by June Jordan
- “Mrs. Caldera’s House of Things” by Gregory Djanikian

RHODE ISLAND

Daraja Aranda Hinds

- “Silence” by Thomas Hood
- “Dog” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti

SOUTH CAROLINA

LeeAnn Swager

- “Dressing My Daughters” by Mark Jarman
- “Love (III)” by George Herbert

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Shantelle R. Eddy

- “I Am the People, the Mob” by Carl Sandburg
- “The Empty Dance Shoes” by Cornelius Eady

VERMONT

Claude Mumbere

- “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” by Dylan Thomas
- “I’m a Fool to Love You” by Cornelius Eady

VIRGINIA

Carol V. Decker

- “Agoraphobia” by Linda Pastan
- “Strange Meeting” by Wilfred Owen

WEST VIRGINIA

Anthony Braxton

- “Teaching English from an Old Composition Book” by Gary Soto
- “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley

ALABAMA**Youssef Biaz**

- “Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold
- “Those Winter Sundays” by Robert E. Hayden

ARKANSAS**Kelsey Cain-Myers**

- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- “Ars Poetica” by Archibald MacLeish

FLORIDA**Shatyra G. Hall**

- “Sonnet XV: When I consider everything that grows” by William Shakespeare
- “History Lesson” by Natasha Trethewey

GEORGIA**Griffin Freeman**

- “I Am Offering this Poem” by Jimmy Santiago Baca
- “Self-Portrait” by Robert Creeley

ILLINOIS**Morgan Joyce Williams**

- “What Work Is” by Philip Levine
- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

INDIANA**Zachary Rooker**

- “A Dream Within a Dream” by Edgar Allan Poe
- “Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold

IOWA**Grace Rants**

- “The Listeners” by Walter de la Mare
- “The Good-Morrow” by John Donne

KANSAS**Casha Gloria Mills**

- “Scary Movies” by Kim Addonizio
- “a song in the front yard” by Gwendolyn Brooks

KENTUCKY**Victoria DiMartile**

- “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg
- “A Song for Soweto” by June Jordan

LOUISIANA

David Wayne Douglas

- “Booker T. and W.E.B.” by Dudley Randall
- “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley

MICHIGAN

Harron Alexander Atkins

- “A Song for Soweto” by June Jordan
- “Thou Art My Lute” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

MISSISSIPPI

Kristen Dupard

- “I Am the People, the Mob” by Carl Sandburg
- “Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday” by Robert E. Hayden

MISSOURI

Terry Lee Watkins, Jr.

- “The New World” by Amiri Baraka
- “A Hymn to God the Father” by John Donne

NEBRASKA

Jakob Kramer

- “Dog” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- “The Cross of Snow” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

OKLAHOMA

Renae Perry

- “At the Vietnam Memorial” by George Bilgere
- “Filling Station” by Elizabeth Bishop

PUERTO RICO

Rafael José Rivera Quiñones

- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- “Solitude” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

TENNESSEE

Summer Ghasan Awad

- “Hysteria” by Dionisio D. Martínez
- “Let the Light Enter” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

WISCONSIN

Chantal Tribble

- “Black Boys Play the Classics” by Toi Derricotte
- “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

ALASKA

Lakeidra D. Chavis

- “Domestic Violence” by Eavan Boland
- “The Author to Her Book” by Anne Bradstreet

ARIZONA

Steffi McNerney

- “The Days Gone By” by James Whitcomb Riley
- “The Uniform” by Marvin Bell

CALIFORNIA

Robert Marchand

- “Buick” by Karl Shapiro
- “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg

COLORADO

Samuel Opoku

- “Altruism” by Molly Peacock
- “A Song for Soweto” by June Jordan

HAWAII

Lea DiMarchi

- “On Monsieur’s Departure” by Queen Elizabeth I
- “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg

IDAHO

Haley M. Henderson

- “Invitation to Love” by Paul Laurence Dunbar
- “In Memoriam: Martin Luther King, Jr.” by June Jordan

MINNESOTA

Ian Taylor

- “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg
- “Invitation to Love” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

MONTANA

Stella Shannon

- “Blackberrying” by Sylvia Plath
- “Lunar Baedeker” by Mina Loy

NEVADA

Emily Orellana

- “Epilogue” by Robert Browning
- “Domestic Violence” by Eavan Boland

NEW MEXICO

Nicole Bartlett

- “Gitanjali 35” by Rabindranath Tagore
- “The Blackstone Rangers” by Gwendolyn Brooks

NORTH DAKOTA

Karson Pederson

- “Mrs. Caldera’s House of Things” by Gregory Djanikian
- “Domestic Violence” by Eavan Boland

OREGON

Nathaniel Michael Dunaway

- “Teaching English from an Old Composition Book” by Gary Soto
- “England in 1819” by Percy Bysshe Shelley

SOUTH DAKOTA

Melissa Johnston

- “Dog” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- “Agoraphobia” by Linda Pastan

TEXAS

Maria Zuniga

- “And Soul” by Eavan Boland
- “Teaching English from an Old Composition Book” by Gary Soto

UTAH

Shannon McCullam

- “Who Understands Me but Me” by Jimmy Santiago Baca
- “Chorus Sacerdotum” by Fulke Greville

WASHINGTON

Micah D. Meadowcroft

- “The Death of Allegory” by Billy Collins
- “A Dream Within a Dream” by Edgar Allan Poe

WYOMING

Sara Margaret Ellingrod

- “Song of the Powers” by David Mason
- “On Quitting” by Edgar Albert Guest

Prizes

National Finals

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th–9th place
\$20,000 award	\$10,000 award	\$5,000 award	\$1,000 award

The schools of the top nine finalists will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books.

The fourth-place student in each semifinal competition will receive an honorable mention award of \$1,000, with \$500 to their school library for the purchase of poetry books.

State Finals

More than \$50,000 in cash and school stipends was awarded at state final competitions.

Awards will be made in the form of lump sum cash payouts, reportable to the IRS. Tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winners and their families.

Production

Michael Baron (director) is the Artistic Director of Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma and has directed over 65 productions at theaters across the country. Most recently at Lyric, he directed *Boeing Boeing*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Baron's other directing highlights include Ford's Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Signature Theatre: *The Little Dog Laughed*; Goodspeed Musicals: *Meet John Doe*; Adventure Theatre: *A Year with Frog and Toad*. He earned his MFA in Directing from the Trinity Repertory and a BA in theatre from Wake Forest University.

The **Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra** is a 17-piece big band co-founded by baritone saxophonist Brad Linde and club owner Omrao Brown. Directed by Linde and trumpeter Joe Herrera, the BCJO now presents a variety of music from big band literature and features some of DC's best musicians on Monday nights at the historic Bohemian Caverns.

Brent Birkhead <i>alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute</i>	Mike "Bags" Davis <i>trumpet</i>	Shannon Gunn <i>trombone</i>
Sarah Hughes <i>alto saxophone, clarinet, flute</i>	John Williams II <i>trumpet</i>	Ryan McGeorge <i>euphonium</i>
Elijah Balbed <i>tenor saxophone, flute</i>	Donvonte McCoy <i>trumpet</i>	Amy K. Bormet <i>piano</i>
Charles Phaneuf <i>tenor saxophone, clarinet</i>	Brad Clements <i>trumpet</i>	Eliot Seppa <i>bass</i>
Brad Linde <i>baritone saxophone, flute</i>	Steve Shaw <i>trombone</i>	Dave McDonald <i>drums</i>
	Darius Jones <i>trombone</i>	

Christylez Bacon is a Grammy-nominated, progressive hip-hop artist and multi-instrumentalist from Washington, DC. As a performer, Bacon multi-tasks between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box, all while continuing the oral tradition of storytelling through his lyrics.

Acknowledgments

POETRY OUT LOUD IS RUN AT THE STATE LEVEL BY

Alabama State Council on the Arts	Montana Arts Council
Alaska State Council on the Arts	Nebraska Arts Council
Arizona Commission on the Arts	Nevada Arts Council
Arkansas Arts Council	New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
California Arts Council	New Jersey State Council on the Arts
Colorado Creative Industries	New Mexico Arts
Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism	New York State Council on the Arts
Delaware Division of the Arts	North Carolina Arts Council
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities	North Dakota Council on the Arts
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs	Ohio Arts Council
Georgia Council for the Arts	Oklahoma Arts Council
Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts	Oregon Arts Commission
Idaho Commission on the Arts	Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Illinois Arts Council	Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena
Indiana Arts Commission	Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Iowa Arts Council	South Carolina Arts Commission
Kansas Arts Commission	South Dakota Arts Council
Kentucky Arts Council	Tennessee Arts Commission
Louisiana Division of the Arts	Texas Commission on the Arts
Maine Arts Commission	Utah Arts Council
Maryland State Arts Council	Vermont Council on the Arts
Massachusetts Cultural Council	Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs	Virginia Commission for the Arts
Minnesota State Arts Board	Washington State Arts Commission
Mississippi Arts Commission	West Virginia Commission on the Arts
Missouri State Council on the Arts	Wisconsin Arts Board
	Wyoming Arts Council
	<i>and many incredible partners</i>

THE NATIONAL FINALS ARE THE RESULT OF AMAZING EFFORTS BY

Karen Newell and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Peggy Dahlquist, Michael Baron, Brad Linde and the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, Christylez Bacon, guest hosts and judges, and numerous staff at the National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation.

Thank You All!



How very honored the poet
should feel to have a stranger
close their eyes and say a poem
of his or hers out loud. No
wonder we call it knowing a
thing “by heart.”

—Billy Collins, poet

www.poetryoutloud.org

